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A New Colubrid Snake of the Genus *Atractus*

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Chicago Natural History Museum has acquired two specimens of an unusual snake of the genus *Atractus*. These animals are distinguished by their very large size, relatively thick bodies, and coral snake pattern.

Atractus obesus, new species. Figure 71.

Type.—Chicago Natural History Museum no. 69661, a female, from Santa Bárbara, a site at base of Cerro Frontino, upper Río Urrao, a tributary of Río Penserisco, Cordillera Occidental, Antioquia, Colombia. Collected by Philip Hershkovitz, April, 1951, at an altitude of 2700 meters in a temperate zone forest with predominance of oak.

Paratype.—CNHM no. 59204, a female from El Roblal, Río Pichindé, a tributary of Río Cali, Los Farallones, eastern slope of the Cordillera Occidental, Valle del Cauca, Colombia. Collected by José Cuatrecasas on April 25, 1946, at an altitude of 2640 meters. This paratype was taken approximately 700 to 800 air miles south of the type locality.

Diagnosis.—An *Atractus* with a wide frontal, a loreal $2\frac{1}{2}$ to four times longer than high, seven upper labials, two postoculars, one anterior temporal, 17 scale rows, ventrals in females 171–183, subcaudals in females 26–30, a false coral snake pattern (fig. 71), and a very thick body.

Description of type.—Rostral small, visible from above; internasals very small, one-half length of prefrontals; prefrontals large, entering orbit; frontal large, wider than long; parietals very large, the length greater than the distance across head from eye to eye; nasals

at its widest area $2\frac{1}{2}$ times longer than wide, and at

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its narrowest area four times longer than wide, entering orbit; no preocular; supraoculars large; two postoculars; temporals 1-2; eye size equal to its distance from mouth; seven upper labials, third and



FIG. 71. *Atractus obesus*, new species; type, CNHM no. 69661.

fourth entering orbit; seven lower labials, first three pairs in contact with chinshields, mental abnormally divided into three parts.

Scale rows 17-17-17; ventrals 183; anal entire; subcaudals 26. Total length 762 mm.; tail 0.10 of total length; mid-body width 0.03 of total length.

Color (in alcohol): There are 32 complete blue-black rings around body and tail, each 6 scale rows wide on the back and tapering ven-

trally to the width of two to three ventral plates. On the back these rings have a light central stripe composed of a single row of black scales edged with yellow. The blue-black bands are separated by bands of yellow that are one scale row wide on the back and three to four ventral plates wide on the belly. These light bands are composed dorsally and laterally of scales with yellow anterior and light brown posterior color. The top of the head is black, the snout yellowish with brown. The under side of the head is yellowish with a few blue-black spots.

Description of paratype.—Ventrals 171; subcaudals 30; total length 758 mm.; tail length 0.12 of total length. The coloration is identical with the type with 35 blue-black rings. The mid-body width is 0.03 of the total length. Otherwise the paratype also agrees with the type.

Remarks.—The abundance of described forms of *Atractus* leaves one frustrated, for there are 86 names in the literature (Savage, 1960, p. 80), excluding synonyms. Very few *Atractus* are reported to have a false coral snake pattern and these differ from *Atractus obesus* as follows: *elaps* has 15 scale rows, one postocular, wide internasals, six upper labials, a short loreal, and 144–167 ventrals; *latifrons* has six upper labials, a short loreal, one postocular, wide internasals, and 142–150 ventrals; *badius* and *multicinctus* have 144–160 ventrals, are much shorter, and belly is whitish or spotted; *erythromelas* has a narrower frontal, shorter loreal, coloration variable, the head spotted with a streak running through eye, and a different color pattern on under side of tail.

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SAVAGE, JAY M.

1960. A revision of the Ecuadorian snakes of the colubrid genus *Atractus*. Misc. Publ. Mus. Zool., Univ. Michigan, no. 112, pp. 1–86, figs. 1–11.